



Brett Lovegrove
Head of Counter Terrorism



Statement of Brett Lovegrove

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City of London Police

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Introduction

Mr. Chairman and members of the sub-committee, may I thank you on behalf of the City of London Police for the opportunity to testify before you today. It is well known that our two countries stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight against terrorism in all its forms. Our valued partnership allows us to exchange information and experiences; this is one of the mainstays of our international determination.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank you for your support after the tragedy that unfolded in London on the 7th July 2005. I am heartened to know that this support continues whilst the investigations into the bombings continue.

My testimony will cover the following:

- A Contextual Outline of the City of London
- The National and Local Emergency Management Structure
- The Command Structure
- The Intelligence System
- The Value of Partnerships
- Technological Solutions
- Communication Systems
- Legislation
- Lessons Learned

A Contextual Outline of the City of London

The City of London is the financial heart of the United Kingdom. It is not only part of the critical national infrastructure; it provides a significant contribution to the financial well being of the international community.

This international aspect of the City makes it ‘target rich’.

- The City generates over 10% of the gross domestic product for the UK
- It manages over \$500 billion foreign exchange turnover per day
- It takes 56% of the global equity market
- The City has a 24/7 culture with a busy transport, leisure and retail economy
- Over 550 foreign banks operate within the area
- It is said that the City has more American banks than New York and more Japanese banks than Tokyo

The four main priorities of the City of London Police are:

- Counter Terrorism
- Economic Crime
- Community Policing
- Public Order

The 'glue' that holds the effectiveness of the counter terrorism efforts together is the number of effective partnerships with the business and residential community which I shall elaborate upon later in this statement.

The National and Local Emergency Management Structure

The emergency response to terrorist attacks has been honed over the years by the activities of Irish Republican terrorism in the 1970/1980's. The London Emergency Services Liaison Panel (LESLP, <http://www.leslp.gov.uk/>) was set up in October 1996 to ensure that the 'blue light' agencies provided a partnership approach to man-made and natural disasters.

Since then, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 has demanded a more inclusive approach to large-scale incidents. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (established in 2001), aims to co-ordinate government department effort and ensure that the UK's communities remain safe and secure and that we retain a World-class capability to recover from emergencies. Their specific objectives are:

- To identify and predict emergencies
- Maintain a state of readiness
- Build resilience for the future
- Provide leadership to the resilience community
- Promote effective management

The 2004 Act required the UK to develop Regional Resilience Forums designed to respond and managed disasters.

A government minister chairs the London Regional Resilience Forum (LRRF) and its membership includes the chief officers of the police, fire, ambulance, utilities, business representatives, local authorities and transport operators. This membership is replicated on a national basis.

Because of its size and the fact that London is made up of 32 boroughs, it is divided into six Local Resilience Fora (LRF's) that ultimately report to the LRRF.

The responsibility of responding is divided into Category 1 and Category 2 responders. Category 1 responders include:

- Emergency services
- Local authorities
- Health
- The environment agency

Category 2 responders include:

- The utility companies
- Transport
- Health and Safety Executive

Because the areas that underpin this structure are specialised, a number of sub-groups of advisors and experts undertake work on specific subject matter. The sub-groups are also capable of responding fast time to events when they occur. I refer you to Appendix 'A'.

London's responders also work to the Strategic Emergency Plan (which can be found at <http://www.londonprepared/plan>), which is a comprehensive summary of the key plans of the members of the London Resilience Partnership. It serves as the reference document for 'Gold' level representatives who would have a strategic responsibility when responding to major incidents.

The Command Structure

In light of the number of partners that could be called in to support the strategic command and the tactical delivery of a major incident, it is critical that all the skills and assets belonging to the individual partners are co-ordinated in the most effective way possible.

For some years now, the UK has refined a Gold, Silver and Bronze system of incident command. I refer you to Appendix 'B'.

The Gold Commander who is, in the event of a terrorist incident, a police officer, chairs the Gold Group and remains in overall command. The members of the Gold Group are chief officers of the Category 1 and 2 responder organisations. They set the overall strategy for the incident and are responsible for resourcing the incident and their own individual organisations but tactical decisions to their own respective Silver Commanders. The Gold Group remains in contact with their Silver Commanders but do not interfere with the tactical response.

The Silver Group mirror the Gold Group in their membership but are responsible for tactically delivering the Gold Strategy. The Silver Commander is responsible for developing and co-ordinating the tactical plan and provides the pivotal link between the Gold Group strategy and the tactical delivery at Bronze level.

The Bronze Commander is the team leader who ensures the effective tactical delivery of the Silver Commander's plan.

Each level must keep in frequent contact, especially if the overall strategy or tactical plan changes.

The benefits are:

- It's a simple structure that is easily overlaid onto any major incident (including public disorder and CBRN events)
- It is easily understood by multi-agency partners
- It focuses on role and function and not rank

This command structure is tested within police forces every day and are the subject of regular testing at all levels.

The Intelligence System

In the wake of the July attacks, the police and security services, in order to develop community leaders within London especially within the Muslim community, have together undertaken a significant amount of work. Operation Canyon (an intelligence gathering initiative within all our communities) was launched as a formal operation to identify and maximise opportunities. This has proven to be very successful. The Special Branch (SB-the national police organisation that gathers and exploits intelligence relating to extremist political and terrorist activity) in the UK has taken the lead in this area of work.

At a regional level the Special Branch Regional Intelligence Cells (RIC) have evolved and each UK region has its own facility. They are staffed by the police forces within their region on a secondment basis and are centrally funded. Their role is, as the name suggests, the development of intelligence across the region, and each RIC has capability in respect of surveillance, analysis and financial investigators and they co-ordinate intelligence in cross border enquiries within a RIC area.

Also emerging are regional CT 'hubs' that have a capability to carry out the executive action phase of CT investigations.

The Joint Terrorism Analysis Cell (JTAC) continues to provide a co-ordinated response to threat assessment and intelligence reporting and provide a valuable national briefing facility. It co-ordinates information from various government departments and is the single point of contact for intelligence products relating to national and international terrorism.

Locally, the City of London SB provides a high quality level of service, especially to our internal staff and our business communities in the form of briefings and intelligence sharing. They also monitor the activation of powers under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Because Counter Terrorism is the number one objective of the City of London Police, this police force deploys a number of counter terrorism tactics. Some of these will be very familiar to any police service in the UK and the US.

All officers are briefed daily on the International and Irish terrorist threat to the United Kingdom.

The briefings will include:

- Methods undertaken by terrorists for hostile reconnaissance
- Terrorists fund raising through "white collar crime"
- Terrorists fund raising through tax avoidance in areas of fuel, tobacco, and alcohol

Patrolling tactics are formulated specifically to our needs by appointed officers within the Force and implemented as part of a daily vigilance level of the City of London Police.

Patrols in response to specific intelligence are implemented under Operation Rainbow. Operation Rainbow is a menu of nationally agreed policing options to combat terrorism and police forces are tasked at a local, regional and national level.

- Local - By appointed officers within the City of London
- Regional - By appointed officers from forces within the London area

- National - By appointed officers from forces within England and Wales

The Value of Partnerships

In addition to the immeasurable benefits of the emergency responders working together, the City of London understands and values each and every business and residential partnership that we have worked hard to forge.

We recognised long ago that law enforcement agencies do not have all the answers. Indeed, our partners have a vast array of skills and knowledge that we can never have. Our partner activity in the community includes:

- The Independent Advisory Group included in all our policing activity
- CT briefings throughout the year to Chief Executive Board level down to ‘front of house’ security professionals
- Table-top exercising key stakeholders with a particular focus on business continuity
- Weekly ‘Bridge Call’ (or conference call) to update key people on CT threats and crime issues for cascading to their personnel
- Covert and overt CT operations

On the last point, I would like to briefly highlight two examples of this work.

Firstly, Project Griffin is a joint police and security professional initiative that focuses attention on the identification of terrorists undertaking hostile reconnaissance activity. There are three strands:

- The awareness day
- The bridge call
- The cordon deployment

The awareness day includes a range of specialists delivering presentations on the latest threat assessment, construction of explosives, terrorist methodology, hostile reconnaissance behaviour and cordon deployment.

The bridge call ensures that all Project Griffin partners are kept up to date with the latest threat so that they can deploy their own resources appropriately.

The cordon deployment is activated if a major incident occurs thereby releasing police officers to undertake other duties that they are specially trained for.

Project Griffin has been rolled out across most of the larger cities in England and Wales and Scotland have introduced it in Glasgow. The result is that we have 3000 extra pairs of eyes and ears to help us combat the terrorist planning phase (4000 across the UK), a positive and lively range of partnerships upon which we can build further initiatives, an enviable professional relationship with business who have a joint vested interest

Secondly, Operation Buffalo is a partnership initiative with the business community that tests the quality of a company’s physical security whereby under-cover officers try to penetrate

their security arrangements. The learning that emanates from this activity is invaluable and helps companies to 'target harden' their arrangements where necessary.

Technological Solutions

It is well known that the City of London has an extensive CCTV coverage that exists both in the public environment and within the privately owned buildings. The police controlled system is digitally managed so that, for mainly investigative and evidential reasons, the system can be quickly interrogated.

Additionally, the City of London Police benefit from the Automatic Number Plate Recording (ANPR) system. The ANPR system is provided with information from the Police National Computer (PNC) that contains details of all UK registered vehicles, persons of interest to law enforcement agencies and government departments, and all offender antecedent history and identifying features.

When a vehicle that has an 'interest marker' passes through the ANPR system, command and control are immediately alerted and an appropriate policing response deployed. Additionally, the mobile version of the ANPR system allows its deployment in support of covert or overt operations against identified targets. In 2005, the ANPR system read nearly 36 million registration plates that led to numerous arrests and even more items of intelligence. This has proved to be an invaluable CT facility.

The City of London Police remains at the leading edge of UK technological development and works hard to exploit new and workable technology.

Communication Systems

For many years, the City of London Police have utilised a combined e-mail, pager and text facility that allows us, in extremis, to communicate directly with 500,000 people in the community at a time. It is also an additional way to communicate police activity and how the police wish the community to respond.

This facility proved exceptionally useful during the tragedy of the 7th July last year and allowed key stakeholders to manage the expectations of their staff.

We have also built a loudspeaker system, connected to Police Headquarters command and control, which allows us to communicate with key 'crowded places' and direct people away from dangers and towards safe areas.

Legislation

All police officers are deployed on patrols use powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to stop and search members of the public and their vehicles. Under section 43 of the Act, the officer must have suspicion that the person stopped is a terrorist. Section 44 is authorised by a high-ranking police officer and must be ratified by the Secretary of State. Section 44 authorises a

police officer in uniform to stop and search any person and any vehicle. No suspicion on behalf of the police officer is required.

The City of London Police uses these powers extensively. In the year 2005/06, 8594 members of the public were stopped under the Act.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, provides the power to stop and search people if they personally have reasonable grounds to believe that a person (or persons) have committed an offence or have stolen items or articles concerned in crime on their person. A separate power exists specifically to search people in a defined area and time for knives and other weapons.

This combined activity, provided it is done sensitively, appropriately and with good reason, serves as a deterrent to both the common criminal and a sophisticated terrorist planner.

We are always cognisant of maintaining the human rights of individuals and in our efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, we always consider whether any of our activity contravenes the Human Rights Act. A standing item on any CT planning agenda is the community risk assessment whereby managers are able to gauge the effect of a CT operation on the wider community.

Lessons Learned

It would not be helpful for me to describe in detail about the police response to the tragic events of the 7th July last year at a time where a UK debate is taking place about whether or not a public inquiry should undertake a review.

It is right to say, however, that we are a learning organisation that has already examined the recommendations in the publicly accessible report published by the London Assembly and made plans to ensure that future responses by this force will have paid heed to them.